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Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries and resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly[1] endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/18 of 4 December 2013, by which the Assembly took note of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category,

Recalling further that graduation becomes effective and that, three years after the date on which the General Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee, during the three-year period, the country remains on the list of least developed countries and maintains the advantages associated with membership on that list,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed countries category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Recalling its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2013/20 of 24 July 2013,

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixteenth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2014, on the role of country groupings for development cooperation, on the monitoring of graduating and graduated countries from the least developed country category and on the review and refining of the criteria for classifying countries as least developed in preparation for the triennial review of the least developed country category in 2015;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its seventeenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the programme of work of the Council and its high-level segment session of 2015;

4. *Welcomes* the decision by the General Assembly to take note of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category;

5. *Requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

6. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly for Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

7. *Acknowledges* with satisfaction the contributions made by the Committee to various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other Committee members to continue this practice, as specified in resolution 2011/20, within existing resources and as appropriate.

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[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 13* (E/2014/33).